

# 2021 2024

## YOUTH Strategy



# Youth

ADVISORY COUNCIL



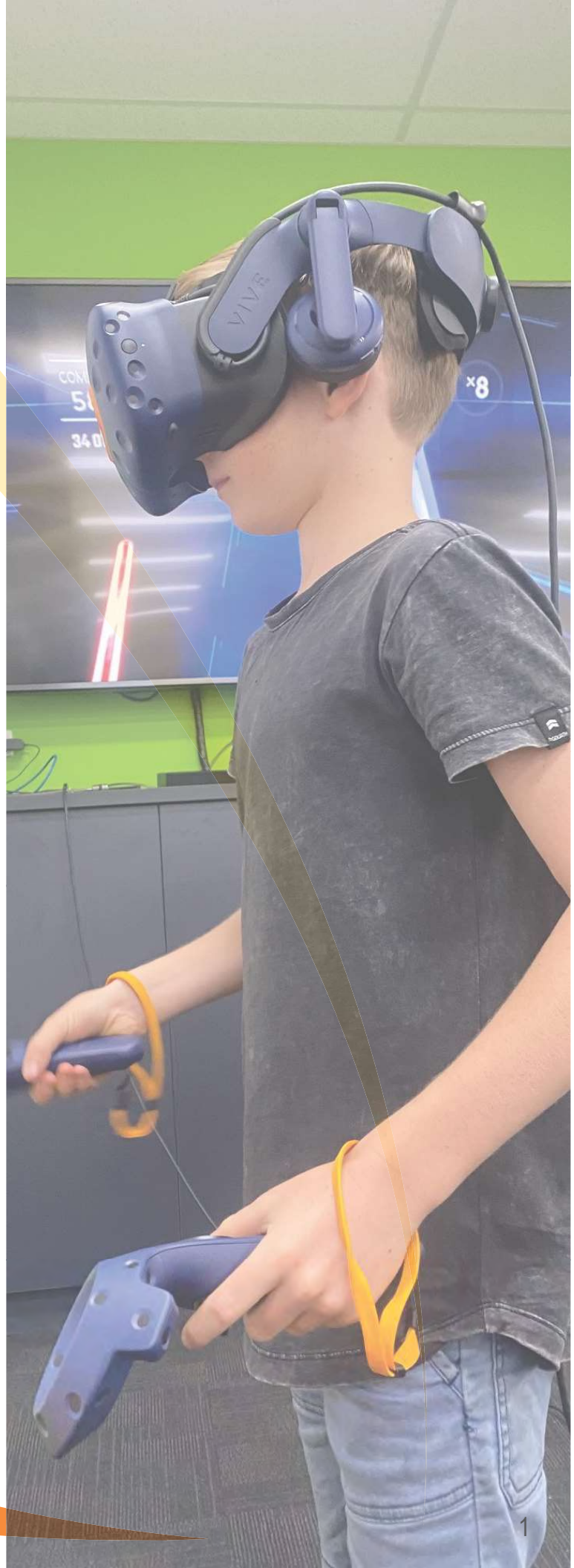
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Welcome

**Nginyanhi Wiradjuri mayiny gawaymbanha nginyalgir Wiradjuri-gu Ngurambung-gu -  
We the Narrungdera Wiradjuri people welcome you all to Wiradjuri Country**

Acknowledgement

**Narrandera Shire acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the first Australians and recognises that they have a unique relationship with the land and water. Council recognises that we are situated on the traditional lands of the Narrungdera Clan, of the Wiradjuri Nation who have lived here for thousands of years. We offer our respect to their elders past and present and through them, to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people**



*A message from*  
**the Youth Advisory Council Mayor**



Hello, my name is Braden Lyons and I am the Mayor of the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) for Narrandera Shire.

I have been on the YAC since mid-2019 and I was honoured and proud to be elected the Mayor of the YAC.

I would like to share with you all, the reasons why I joined and what I hope to achieve and accomplish during my time on the YAC. I joined because I am optimistic about making change, especially in a rural/regional area like Narrandera Shire and I have always been keen on making a difference and helping people, I am also passionate about politics. I wish to see Narrandera Shire progress and thrive into the future.

Through the YAC we can engage and communicate with the young people of Narrandera Shire and find out what they need and want to see happen in here. We can then put our ideas to our council and we as our YAC have approved and

been the pioneers of many events and decisions in Narrandera Shire. For example movie nights at the park and Henry Mathieson Oval, Youth Week activities, the Youth Food Trailer and competitions, just to name a few.

I especially joined the YAC because I want to see some meaningful change on mental health in our area. Narrandera Shire and rural/regional towns have a huge mental health problem. Suicide, depression, stress - young people are struggling and sadly some take their lives. That is unacceptable. We need better and fully operational services where young people and everyone can go and seek the help they need without shame or worry. It is my goal as Youth Advisory Council Mayor and a young person to get these services here and funded, by lobbying council, state and federal members and government. It can be done; it must be done.

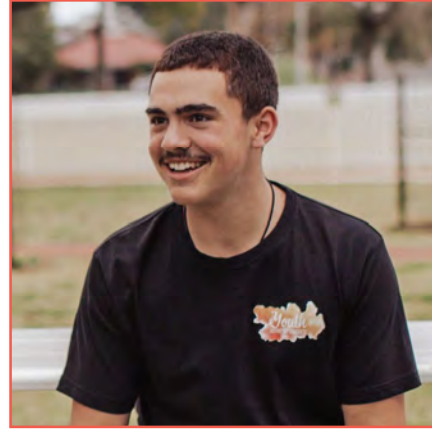
I am proud to be a member of Narrandera Shire's YAC, proud to be able to engage with our town and people and I encourage all young people to get involved wherever they can to make positive, meaningful change in their town to create a progressive future.

Braden Lyons  
Youth Advisory Council Mayor  
Proud Wiradjuri man

## Messages from our Members

### Deputy Youth Mayor Wesley Bamblett

I joined the YAC as I thought I would be a good candidate to represent the youth of Narrandera Shire. I love having the opportunity to have a say and share my opinions on things happening in and around Narrandera Shire. Since joining the YAC, I have forged many friendships and relationships. I have been able to share my opinion on many projects and am excited by future projects we have in the works.



### Youth Councillor Madeline Fraser

Being a member of the YAC helps me share important ideas that I feel are common in the lives of Narrandera Shire's youth. I help run amazing events for young people, by young people. I feel that being able to do this makes me feel heard by the wider community in a team that helps each other. I joined the YAC because I wanted to make a difference in Narrandera Shire's young community. I love that I can make ideas become reality. The YAC lets me express my opinions about subjects that matter to young people like mental health and wellbeing, sustainability and having an involvement in the community. The Youth Advisory Council lets me have a voice.



### Youth Councillor Memphis Singh

I joined the YAC because I want what is best for this town, to make it a fun and enjoyable place for our community. I also wanted to try something new and have fun whilst doing it.



### Youth Councillor Alyssa Sanders and 2021 Narrandera High School Captain

I became a member of the YAC to have a voice for our youth and to take on a more active role in the community. Being a part of the YAC has inspired me to share my ideas and opinions, as well as engage in projects that will have a positive impact. My goal is to have more events in Narrandera to engage young people and encourage them to have pride in our community. By being on the YAC It is teaching me how to communicate effectively and achieve desired outcomes.



# Why a strategy?

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Children and young people play an important role in ensuring a healthy and vibrant community. When provided the right opportunities, children and young people can bring passion, energy, innovation, creativity, and a fresh perspective to the whole community.

Our children and young people are the future of our community, and it is extremely important that Narrandera Shire Council recognise their contribution and allow their voice to be heard.

Narrandera Shire has a strong youth contingent and at Narrandera Shire Council we aim to provide accessible services, events and information to encourage our young people to not only have a thriving childhood, but to also consider staying on in our Shire after school and retain our leaders of tomorrow.

Connecting them with suitable courses through Tafe NSW Narrandera Campus and giving them a platform to have their ideas heard through the Youth Advisory Council.

It is through our Youth Strategy that we hope to achieve this.

Key Statistics of young people  
in Narrandera Shire



The 2016 Census identified Narrandera Shire has a population of 5,863 with 1,778 young people, of that:

- 378 are aged 0-4 years **6.45%**
- 777 are aged 5-14 years **13.25%**
- 325 are aged 15-19 years **5.54%**
- 298 are aged 20-24 years **5.08%**



Of the 1,778 young people in Narrandera Shire, 896 are males and 883 are females.

**287**

people aged between 0 - 24 identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in Narrandera Shire.



# 48%

Of the 266 alleged offenders proceeded against in Narrandera Shire 128 were aged 10 - 29 years old. The area of most concern are drug offences.



According to the 2016 Census 27.4% of Narrandera residents completed Year 12 or equivalent compared to the national average of 51.9%.



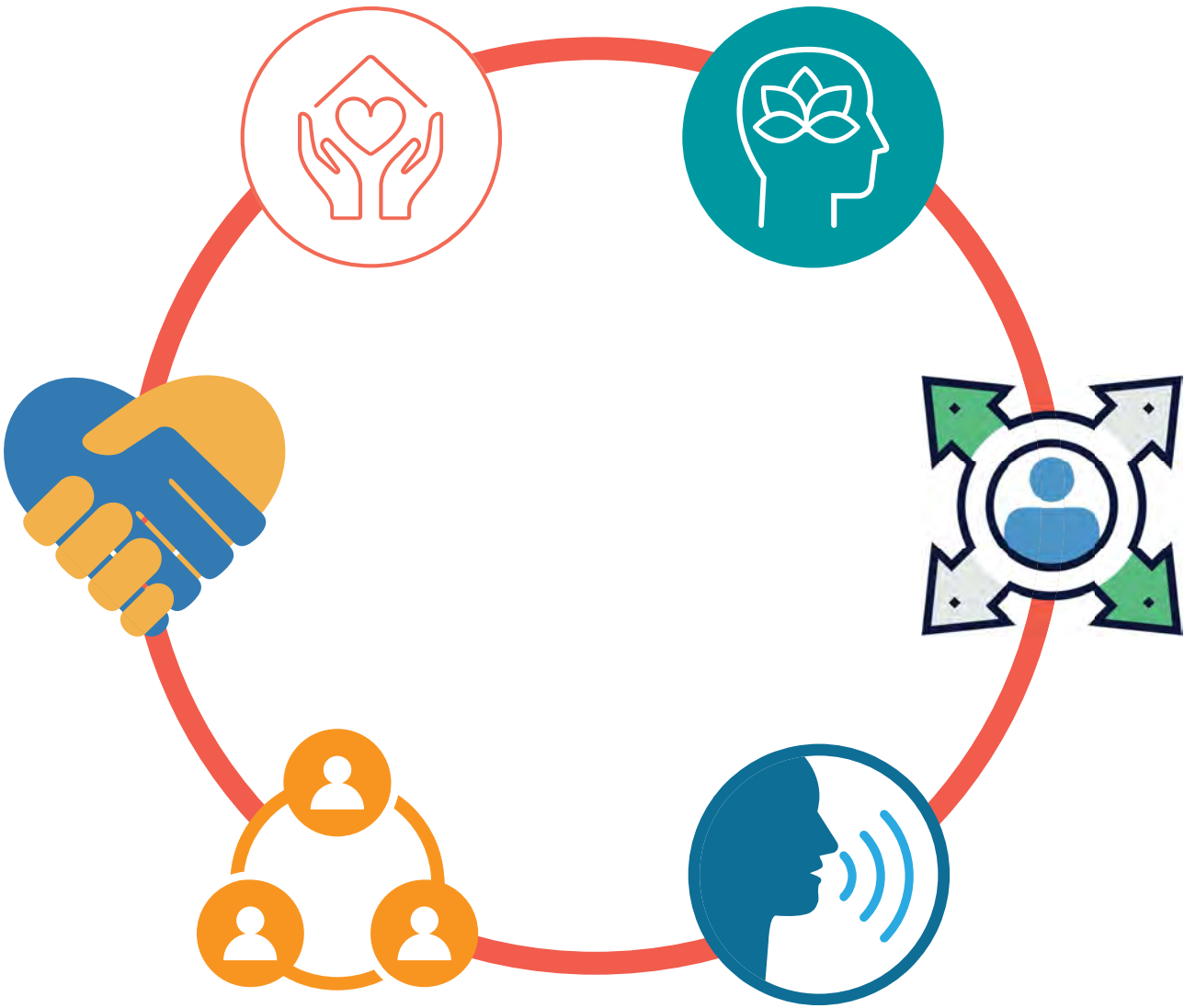
Of all young people living in NSW, 33.1% live in regional & rural areas.

The rate of unemployment 2016

**6.1%** **vs** **6.9%**

Narrandera Shire

NSW



# Our Approach





# Wellbeing

**Children and young people are healthy. They are supported by empowering them with knowledge and skills to make positive changes which support their own, and others physical, mental health and wellbeing.**

## Our Objective

Ensure children and young people are healthy and well through the provision of affordable, accessible, and timely services.

## What We Want To Do

- Advocate for the provision of services in the Narrandera Shire and facilitate access to these services.
- Promote the benefits of living a healthy lifestyle and provide links to participate in activities that empower young people to make positive choices.
- Work with community organisations and local schools to help provide a safe environment for children and young people to feel safe to express their feelings, free from judgement.

## How We Will Do It

- Apply for funding to provide free activities and workshops on the importance of making healthy choices and living an active lifestyle and how these choices affect your overall health, employment and wellbeing.
- Encourage participation in local sporting clubs and facilities to help promote physical fitness.
- Provide a place for organisations like Headspace to work from to allow access to crucial mental health services.
- Work with Local Health Area Committee and other community groups to continue to promote the need for mental health facilities within the Shire.
- Provide healthy food options through the Youth Food Trailer.



# Opportunity

**Children and young people have fundamental underpinnings to achieve in life such as at home and healthcare. They require life skills through support that is appropriate to their developmental stage. Through access to education, training, and work, they can find pathways that optimise their own wellbeing and the wellbeing of the community.**

## Our Objective

Ensure children and young people have relevant skills for life, including technical and vocational skills for employment and entrepreneurship.

## What We Want To Do

- Provide links between local business and young people to create opportunities for future employment within local industry including Local Government.
- Promote the importance of educating young people about basic life skills to provide a smooth transition when entering the workforce.
- To advocate for quality education and cultural opportunities.

## How We Will Do It

- Encourage participation in the Youth Food Trailer, to gain skills in the food service industry and provide valuable experience needed to join the workforce.
- Apply for funding to provide workshops to educate and promote basic life skills needed to enter the workforce or progress to tertiary education.
- Promote and support the Clontarf Academy and the High School Girls Group
- Create relationships with the local schools and encourage participation in Council run events aimed at young people, including NAIDOC Week and Youth Week celebrations. Promote job opportunities within the Shire and encourage opportunities for Council and
- local businesses to host work experience students and provide school-based apprentices.





# Voice

**Children and young people should be included in the decision-making processes that affect them and should be encouraged to be involved in the design, delivery, and monitoring of the services they use.**

## Our Objective

Ensure children and young people are encouraged to be involved in the decisions that affect them.

## What We Want To Do

- Provide a platform for young people to have their say.
- Encourage and foster relationships between Council and the youth community.

## How We Will Do It

- Establish a Youth Advisory Council and encourage young people to join and participate.
- Promote the Youth Advisory Council through Social Media platforms.
- Provide opportunities for feedback on what events and activities young people would like to see held in the Shire.



# Connected

**Children and young people should have the opportunity to be close to family and friends, their culture, and their community. Their built environment should support their interactions.**

## *Our Objective*

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Ensure children and young people have a sense of belonging and connectedness with place and people.

## *What We Want To Do*

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- Encourage collaboration between community groups and young people during the development and planning of community events.
- Advocate for more opportunities to bring young people together outside of the school environment.
- Promote cultural experiences to provide education and understanding on local Aboriginal culture.
- Promote inclusivity and respect of all people to build a better sense of belonging.

## *How We Will Do It*

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- Encourage participation and collaboration from schools, young people and Council during NAIDOC Week and Youth Week celebrations.
- Provide activities for young people to come together and meet new people and connect after school and in school holidays.
- Promote the Youth Space as a safe place for young people to go.
- Apply for funding to host Youth Week activities annually.
- Encourage participation by the Youth Advisory Council in Council run events.





# Respected

**Children and young people deserve to be respected for who they are. The strengths, diversity and potential of all children and young people should be recognised and supported. Services need to be responsive to their individual needs, aspirations, and sense of identity.**

## Our Objective

Ensure children and young people are treated with respect, demonstrated by supporting and valuing their strengths, diversity, and potential.

## What We Want To Do

- Promote opportunities available to young people to strengthen skills and promote diversity.
- Encourage the Positive Behaviour for Learning approach, teaching, and learning approach to support to meet NSW Public School's high standards for respectful, safe, and engaged behaviour.

## How We Will Do It

- Work with local schools to promote the Positive Behaviour for Learning approach.
- Share opportunities available to young people through Council's social media platforms and the through the Youth Advisory Council.



# Safe

**Children and young people have a right to feel protected and safe. They require support to develop healthy relationships and help must be accessible when they need it.**

## Our Objective

Ensure children and young people are free from abuse, neglect, violence, and serious injury.


## What We Want To Do

- Advocate for the provision of support services to provide help to those in need.
- Promote education on available services and provide links to access services.
- Provide opportunities to participate in activities that promote safety and raise awareness to dangers faced by children and young people.

## How We Will Do It

- Promote the Youth Space as a safe place for young people to go.
- Provide Bike Week activities to educate young people on the importance of bike and road safety.
- Promote support services available to young people through Council's social media platforms.

# Closing the strategy loop

The background of the slide is a photograph of two young boys in blue and yellow sports uniforms jumping to catch a yellow football on a grassy field. The boy on the left is holding the ball high above his head, while the boy on the right is jumping towards him with his arms outstretched. The background shows a clear blue sky and some trees in the distance.

**The process of monitoring and evaluation is essential to the success of any strategy. We have no doubt there will be changes along the way and we want to make sure we continue to meet the needs of our children and young people.**

**How we will do it:**

- **Regular reporting on actions.**
- **Ongoing assessment of the progress of the strategy.**
- **Surveying children and young people on how well we are actioning our strategy.**
- **Research and implement best practice examples to support effective service delivery for children and young people.**

**Most importantly we will continue to involve children and young people in decisions that affect them!**



If you're a young person living in or visiting Narrandera Shire and looking for something to do, check out what we have to offer.

During the school holidays Narrandera Shire Library hosts an array of events for all ages. Each year in April Council also takes part in Youth Week, a group of events dedicated to our young people.

Remember to check out what's happening in the area on our 'What's On' page on Council's website [narrandera.nsw.gov.au](http://narrandera.nsw.gov.au).

Our Shire also has a variety of sports clubs and recreations groups including:

- Junior Rugby League
- Junior Eagles Australia Rules Football and Netball
- Narrandera Karate Club
- Narrandera Little Athletics
- Bidgee Boxing
- Narrandera Basketball Association
- Narrandera Netball Association
- 1st Narrandera Scouts
- Narrandera Leeton Air League
- Narrandera Swim Club
- Narrandera Tennis Club
- Narrandera Volleyball Association
- Narrandera Golf Club
- Girls Brigade
- Dance classes
- Music Lessons
- Art Lessons
- One Voice Choir
- Parkside Museum
- The Narrandera Community Radio

## Youth Services

### Narrandera Youth Space

The Narrandera Shire Youth Space is a dedicated Youth zone. Whether you want a quiet place to study or hang out with your friends or a place to escape into the world of Virtual Reality, this is the place for you. Connected to the Narrandera Shire Library, you can also access the free Wi-Fi, an array of books and facilities.

### Headspace

Headspace centres act as a one-stop-shop for young people who need help with mental health, physical health (including sexual health), alcohol and other

drugs or work and study support.

Our 100+ centres are designed not just for young people, but with them, to ensure they are relevant, accessible and highly effective. As a result, no two Headspace centres are the same, with each offering unique services that reflect the needs of its local community.

### Fusion

Fusion began in the 1960's as a movement led by young people. We wanted to give space for other young people to see themselves and their future differently. No matter what background, what cultural influences may be holding them back, we see every young person as deserving of a strong future.

Our team of highly qualified and passionate youth workers aim to meet today's youth where they're at, and so we are continually developing and evolving our range of programs to stay ahead of the issues impacting our culture. Our goal is to mentor and encourage young people to step beyond what they know of themselves, to discover their full potential and find their purpose in life.

When young people have strong relationships with their peers, parents/carers, other significant adults and strong connections in their schools and communities they have the potential to prosper.

It's our values of justice, mercy, compassion, respect and industry which are the basis to Fusion's youth work. We incorporate them into the design, goals, operational practices and the delivery of our programs, where staff, volunteers, students and others in Fusion work together to build skills and establish community connections, places where individual young people can thrive.





*Image Accreditations:*

Pure Dreams Photography: cover - young people, inside cover Youth Councillors group, page 3 - Youth Council Mayor Braden Lyons, page 4 Youth Councillors Wesley Bamblett, Maddie Fraser, Memphis Singh and Alyssa Sanders.

Jack of Hearts Sudio: page 2 - Wirramarri Long Way from Home performance.

XBumpDraft Photography & Video: Page 17 - Young people enjoying the Splash Park at Lake Talbot Water Park.